

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. 

SUBJECT Soviet Troop Movements

DATE DISTR. 19 March 1953

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**BY CABLE**

THE SOURCE EVALUATION IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. On 13 March, 55 trucks, 20 mortars and 1,000 men were unloaded from two trains at the Weimar railroad station. The troops had returned from an exercise.
2. Three troop trains coming from the direction of Erfurt arrived at the Weimar railroad station on 13 March. Twelve 76.2 mm. field guns, 18 x 120 mm. mortars and trucks were unloaded.<sup>1</sup>
3. On 12 March, it was learned in Wuensdorf that the civilian population was to be evacuated from the area east of the Neuhof-Zossen railroad line and that Highway 86 was to be closed to civilian traffic.
4. Thirty tanks from Forst Zinna and 19 T-34 tanks and two SP guns from Spremberg were unloaded at the Cottbus railroad station on 1 March. On 10 March, 8 T-34 tanks and four boxcars loaded with soldiers and ammunition were dispatched from Cottbus to Weisswasser.<sup>2</sup>
5. Three columns of vehicles coming from the direction of Meiningen-Breitungen and proceeding toward Gotha or Kindel were observed passing through Eisenach on 11 March. The columns consisted of a total of 21 trucks with 400 soldiers

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wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, 12 prime movers with field guns, 20 JS tanks and 15 other vehicles. [REDACTED]

Additional motor vehicle columns were observed but no details could be ascertained.

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6. An eastbound troop train was observed at the Rathenow railroad station on 13 March. Five 122 mm. howitzers were seen on the train. On the same day a westbound troop train with twelve tanks, six to eight trucks and seven boxcars with soldiers was observed at the Rathenow railroad station.
  7. On 9 March, the Löwen Kaserne in Doeberitz was fully occupied by one unit with 1,570 men and a second unit with 1,200 men. Both units fell-in with three flags in the barracks yard and listened to a speech given by a general. Subsequently, the first unit with 30 T-34 tanks, 18 trucks with attached 76 mm AT guns, 18 trucks with 57 mm AT guns and four trucks with 120 mm mortars, and the second unit with 35 JS II and JS III tanks and eight JSU 120 mm SP guns marched to the troop training grounds for salute firing.<sup>3</sup>

25X1A [REDACTED] Comments:

1. All of the motor vehicles belonged to the 20th Guards Mechanized Division which probably returned from the Ohrdruf troop training grounds.
2. Indications exist that the exercise of the 9th Mechanized Division extended from Cottbus to as far as the area south of Luckenwalde and that the exercise was completed on 28 February.
3. The first unit is the 19th Mechanized Regiment and the second the 72nd Guards Heavy Tank and SP Regiment, both of the 1st Mechanized Division.

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